(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The following surveys are in progress for construction of new lines in Punjab:—

(i) Kapurthala-Beas (23 kms.)
(ii) Patiala-Jakhal/Narwana via Samana (150 kms.)
(iii) Hoshiarpur to Una (35 kms.)

As regards introducing new rail routes in Punjab, construction of a rail bus siding from Beas to Dera Baba Jaimal Singh has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis with the Dera Authorities.

In addition, the following new line works in Punjab are included in the Railway Budget:—

(a) Chandigarh — Ludhiana

(b) Abohar — Fazilka

(c) Taran Taran — Goindwal

These works will be taken up after ob taining the requisite clearances.

There is no metre gauge lines in the State of Punjab. The only N.G. line in the State is the part of the Kangra — Valley Railway near Pathankot. Survey for conversion of this line to BG is already in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible after the survey report is received.

South East Coast Railway Zone at Waltair

2112. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for formation of South East Coast Railway Zone at Waltair; and

(b) if so, the details of the resolution of Andhra Pradesh legislature in this regard and measures taken to ensure that Visakhapatnam Railway Division is not merged with new Zonal Headquarter at Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

The Andhra Pradesh Legislature adopted a resolution dated 13.9.96 on the following issues:—

1. For formation of new South East Coast Railway Zone with its headquarters at Waltair.

2. To bring

(a) Duvvada-Palasa (South Eastern Railway)

(b) Vizianagaram-Koneru of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(c) Naupada-Patapatnam of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(d) Kothavalasa-Garapur of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(e) a portion of Palasa-Ichapuram of A.P. (S.E. Railway)

Under the control of proposed new South East Coast Railway Zone with headquaters at Waltair or under the control of South Central Railway.

3. Not to transfer Hubli Division from the South Central Railway, Secunderabad to the newly proposed Railway Zone with headquarters at Bangalore.

4. Not to merge Visakhapatnam Railway Division with the proposed new Railway Zone with Bhubaneswar as its headquarters.

In regard to the above, it is stated that taking the various factors into consideration, the Government has decided to set up six new Zones at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur. The inaugural functions for these Zones have been held. As per RRC recommendations territorial jurisdiction is not to be decided on the ethnic, territorial or linguistic consideration. As regards other issue raised, the territorial jurisdictions of the East Coast Railway and the South Western Railway have not yet been finalised. A final decision will be taken after consultation with concerned authorities.

Black marketing of reserved tickets

2113. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reserved tickets for trains are being sold in black in these days and public has to purchase the ticket from the middlemen by paying hundred rupees extra per ticket;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be